

South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

*Managing the Medicaid program to provide
the best healthcare value for South Carolinians.*

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GAPS Enrollment Deadline Approaching

South Carolina seniors have until **May 15** to enroll in one of 11 private prescription drug plans offering the new *GAPS* benefit administered by the SC Department of Health and Human Services.

GAPS (Gap Assistance Pharmacy Program for Seniors) helps qualifying seniors with drug expenditures between \$2,250 and \$5,100. Under the new Medicare Part D drug benefits that took effect January 1, seniors could otherwise be fully responsible for drug costs within the range of the so-called “doughnut hole.” SC *GAPS* helps fill the coverage gap by paying 95 percent of those drug costs.

“The *GAPS* benefit can provide much needed relief for some seniors faced with costly prescription drug bills,” said DHHS Director Robert M. Kerr. “I’d encourage all seniors, especially those who depend on expensive medications, to learn as much as possible about their drug plan benefits before the May 15 enrollment deadline. If you want to take advantage of the *GAPS* benefit, you must be enrolled in a drug plan that participates in the program.”

To qualify for *GAPS*, seniors must have incomes between 150-200 percent of the federal poverty level AND be enrolled in a participating prescription drug plan (see attached list). *GAPS* was signed into law by Gov. Mark Sanford in February and replaces the former *SILVERxCARD* prescription drug program.

Seniors already enrolled in a drug plan also can switch to a different plan without penalty if they do so before May 15. To find out more about *GAPS*, call **1-888-549-0820** or visit DHHS online: www.dhhs.state.sc.us.

Please Note: Seniors with incomes below 150 percent of poverty may qualify for *Extra Help*, a separate program run by the Social Security Administration that covers prescription drugs costs between \$2,250 and \$5,100. Seniors should first check with the Social Security Office before applying for *GAPS* coverage. Call **1-800-772-1213** or visit Social Security online at: www.socialsecurity.gov

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